

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06982 081228Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-02 JUSE-00 FTC-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0946

UNCLAS LONDON 06982

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UK

SUBJECT: ANTITRUST: REPORT ON ELECTRICAL CABLE CARTEL

REF: STATE 104957

1. MONOPOLIES DIVISION, OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING, STATES THAT COMMISSION STUDY ON ELECTRIC CABLE CARTEL WILL NOT BE COMPLETED FOR ANOTHER 12 TO 18 MONTHS. ECONOMIST REPORT BASED ON ARTICLES IN THE TIMES (APRIL 7 AND 9) AND GUARDIAN (APRIL 8) DEALING WITH BRITISH CABLE MAKERS' PARTICIPATION IN 20 NATION CARTEL ORGANIZED TO RESTRICT COMPETITION IN WORLD MARKETS.

2. THE TIMES WRITES THAT ITT'S UK SUBSIDIARY, BRITISH STANDARD TELEPHONE AND CABLE (STC), RESIGNED FROM THE CARTEL'S FORMAL ORGANIZATION, THE LIECHTENSTEIN-REGISTERED INTERNATIONAL CABLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ICDC) IN FEAR OF VIOLATING EEC ANTITRUST REGULATIONS. ACCORDING TO THE TIMES THE ICDC INCLUDES COMPANIES FROM AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, HOLLAND, FINLAND, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, GREECE, INDIA, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, YUGOSLAVIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. BRITAIN AND WEST GERMANY ARE REPORTED TO BE THE LARGEST SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ORGANIZATION'S FUNDS.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 06982 081228Z

3. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF ICDC INCLUDE DETERMINATION OF

PRICE LEVELS AND AMOUNT OF BUSINESS TO BE DONE ABOVE AND BELOW THESE LEVELS, ALLOCATION OF EXPORT MARKETS, ARRANGING COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST OUTSIDE COMPETITORS MONITORING OF BUSINESS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN MEMBERS AND NOTIFICATION OF ORDERS RECEIVED AND PRICE LEVELS SET. GUARDIAN ARTICLE STATES STC WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT ICDC IS ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVITIES AS STC ONLY LEFT THE CARTEL IN 1973.

4. COPIES OF GUARDIAN AND TIMES ARTICLES WILL BE POUCHED TO EB/CBA/BP:ROBERT J. BUSHNELL.

RICHARDSON

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